

Graduate Program in Women's and Gender Studies

Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment

The doctoral program in Women's and Gender Studies trains students at the highest level to assume leadership roles in research, teaching, and applied work in fields related to women's and gender studies.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Master the existing scholarship in the study of women, gender, and sexuality with goal of using this scholarship in the pursuit of their own research

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Qualifying examinations assessing depth and breadth of knowledge
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Placement in positions and careers that require ability and scholarship in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to assure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress by the graduate director, faculty advisor during coursework, and the dissertation committee
- Exit surveys completed by students upon graduation
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
 - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 2:

- Engage in and conduct original research which demonstrates knowledge of various research methods appropriate to interdisciplinary inquiry
- Successful completion of course requirements regarding original research outputs
- Preparation of and defense of Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation:
 - Defense of dissertation

- Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty members and a committee member from outside of the Rutgers graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies.
- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placement

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping graduate students to achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods, theory, and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Maintain adequate funding levels through the research phase
- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors
- Provide guidance to students on how to seek external funding via Chaser-The Resource Center for Graduate Student External Support
- Facilitate process of applying to the Graduate School for supplemental funding for graduate student travel

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in careers that require training at the highest level in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 3:

- Review evidence of scholarly activity
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of graduate student instructors
- Collection of placement data
- Review by external advisory committees, both inside of and external to the academy

Role of the graduate program in Women's and Gender Studies in helping students achieve Goal 3:

- Encourage student involvement with programs in the Teaching Assistant Project
- Encourage enrollment in Introduction to College Teaching I and II
- Host and promote professional development programs in such areas as human subjects research, library use, course management software, interview skills, presentation skills, development of cv's, use of research tools, and proposal writing
- Host other training sessions related to women's and gender studies when appropriate
- Develop or enhance programs related to job and networking skills, including activity in professional societies

The leadership of the Women's and Gender Studies graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the PhD program and the feedback received from assessments and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet the needs for highly trained individuals in issues related to women, gender, and sexuality.